

ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE
POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOM-
EN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

Held in Washington, DC, December 11, 2013

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ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:39 a.m., in room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Candice S. Miller (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Miller, Harper and Lofgren.

Staff Present: Kelly Craven, Staff Director; Peter Schalestock, Deputy General Counsel; Yael Barash, Legislative Clerk; Salley Wood, Communications Director and Deputy Staff Director; Bob Sensenbrenner, Senior Counsel; Mary Sue Englund, Director of Administration; Kyle Anderson, Minority Staff Director; Matt Pinkus, Minority Senior Policy Advisor; Matt Defreitas, Minority Professional Staff; Khalil Abboud, Minority Deputy Counsel; Thomas Hicks, Minority Senior Counsel; Mike Harrison, Minority Chief Counsel; Greg Abbott, Minority Professional Staff; and Eddie Flaherty, Minority Chief Clerk.

The CHAIRMAN. Good morning, everyone. I call to order the Committee on House Administration for today's hearing on establishing a commission to study the potential creation of a National Women's History Museum. And first of all, the hearing record will remain open for 5 legislative days so that Members might be able to submit any materials that they wish to be included as well.

And we do have a quorum present, so we may proceed.

First of all, I want to thank our witnesses for taking the time to testify before the committee today. We have one witness here, and our other witness is on her way, hopefully coming down the hallway here. And we will proceed as we can here this morning, but we certainly want to thank them for their continued dedication and persistence in this very important and, I think, frankly, long overdue acknowledgement of women's contributions throughout the history of our great Nation.

Both of my distinguished colleagues, Mrs. Blackburn, who again I say will be here shortly, and Mrs. Maloney as well, have joined many of our colleagues from both Chambers in the House and in the Senate in leading this initiative to create a museum here in the Nation's Capital to recognize the accomplishments of great American women. And each day certainly as we walk through the halls of Congress, we see some of the different sculptures that are in the

halls of American pioneers like Susan B. Anthony or Rosa Parks, Helen Keller. We certainly are reminded of the great contributions that women have played in our very rich history, often despite of, quite frankly, or because of the great adversity that they have overcome.

Jeannette Rankin, whose statue adorns Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitors Center, was not only the first woman elected to the House of Representatives, she was a Republican from Montana, but she was actually elected in 1916, which was 4 years before women were even guaranteed the right to vote in our Constitution, which I think is a remarkable thing to note.

And women's contributions are certainly not just social or political, but more and more each day, they are economic as well. And with over 65 million women in the workforce today, women are quickly transforming corporate America.

The contribution of women in our Nation's history is huge, really, very immense. They have aided and served alongside our patriots during the Revolutionary War; women like Clara Barton, who aided and nursed our soldiers in the field in the Civil War; in my home State of Michigan, certainly Rosie the Riveter. My grandmother was one of the Rosies helping to build our arms, all of our armaments. We were the arsenal of democracy, which built the armaments that literally led the entire world to peace, quite frankly, helped our troops achieve victory.

And today they work in every facet of our economy, up to and including CEO's of Fortune 500 companies. And again, as a point of personal privilege, I have to mention, coming from Michigan, that just this week Mary Barra was announced as the new CEO of General Motors, which is the first time a woman has ever headed one of our domestic auto companies, ever. That is really breaking the glass ceiling, so to speak; a good car gal.

But women have stepped to the forefront of innovation, business, politics, you name it, whether within their own communities, their State, or certainly across the entire Nation, and their stories are important to share, as their accomplishments make up the very fabric of our Nation. It is our responsibility to keep this history alive for today's generation and certainly for generations who will come after us all, and that is why we are here today, to examine the establishment of a National Women's History Museum.

Since the 105th Congress, various bills have been introduced to advance the creation of a women's museum. One bill even passed the House, two in the Senate. Our first witness—witnesses today, both Mrs. Maloney and Mrs. Blackburn, authored and cosponsored H.R. 863 this Congress, which would establish the commission to study the creation of a museum.

So we are also going to hear today on our second panel from Ms. Joan Wages, who is the president and CEO of the nonprofit National Women's History Museum, which has been pursuing a national museum since 1996.

I certainly join our witnesses in their enthusiasm for this initiative and welcome others, but I also realize, I think we all do, as they very well know, that there are compelling concerns and certain obstacles that require us to approach the establishment of this

museum with very careful thought and consideration, similar to that which every American woman puts into action every day.

Museums are very expensive propositions, and certainly given our current restrictions in our fiscal environment, Federal funds will be extremely scarce, and the fully private funding model championed by the National Women's History Museum, I think, is an excellent approach given the budget constraints that we live with.

Then there is the matter of governance. Recent museum commissions have recommended that new facilities be part of the Smithsonian, and this is a decision that cannot be taken lightly as it has major repercussions for the museum structure, for collections management and financial support as well, especially when we prefer to see this built and maintained, again, as we say, with private funds.

Over the last decade, the Smithsonian has added two major facilities to its collection, and a third one, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, should open in late 2015, bringing the total number of Smithsonian museums to 19. There is also pending legislation to create a National Museum of the American Latino, which I am very hopeful this committee will have a hearing on next year, as I believe that it, too, is very worthy, a worthy initiative that deserves our attention. And, of course, there is only so much space available on the National Mall, and concerns have been raised about the museum's location.

These issues warrant thorough review and reflection. Establishing a commission may be a step in the right direction to really fully flesh out how such a museum would integrate with our existing national, regional and local cultural institutions, what it will cost, how can we fund it, and where would we put it.

Notwithstanding these issues, the concept of a National Women's History Museum to serve as a repository for the profound social, intellectual and cultural contributions of fully half of our society is certainly deserving of our attention.

Demographics also demonstrate a significant potential level of public interest. Women represent more than half of our population today, as we say, and currently outnumber men actually in college enrollment. These are really recent developments, significant developments, of which I am sure that our foremothers would be very proud, and I am certain that every American man and woman would find value in investigating this history that has allowed us to get to this point. So, again, we will look forward to hearing from our witnesses. We appreciate their attendance here today.

And at this time I would like to recognize my colleague Congresswoman Lofgren for the purpose of providing an opening statement.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you very much, Chairman Miller. And I am also pleased to welcome the witnesses today to this hearing about the establishment of a National Women's History Museum right here in Washington. Now, Chairman Miller and I are of different parties, and we don't agree on every issue, but I think we do share a deep commitment to ensuring that the contributions of women here in America are recognized.

As has been mentioned, the Committee on House Administration has jurisdiction over museums or potential museums if they are or might become part of the Smithsonian, and, of course, in recent

times we have authorized within the Smithsonian the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of African American History and Culture now under construction. As the chair has mentioned, we also have received a report authorized by Congress and completed in 2011 from the Commission to study the potential creation of a National Museum of the American Latino, and I am so pleased to hear from the chairwoman that we will perhaps have a hearing on that early next year. I look forward to that.

Now, this bill has significant bipartisan support. Congresswoman Maloney has been tireless in pursuing this over many, many years, and I am hopeful that we can move forward on this. We have issues, of course: where the museum would be located, how it would be paid for, exhibits, structure and the like; but to me the question is not whether, but how. And I think that that is a great advance.

I mentioned to Congresswoman Maloney one of the things I am interested in pursuing is something called a Treasury-Postal, which is a great way to raise funds, because it is completely within discretion of postal patrons whether or not they would like to buy a stamp that has a small surcharge that would go to a wonderful cause such as this. If you don't want to pay that surcharge, then you don't buy the stamp; but if you would like, it is a way to raise a lot of money with small contributions across the United States. So I am hopeful that we might be able to incorporate something like that funding stream into this down the line.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses. And, Madam Chairwoman, I am so pleased to be here with you today and to participate in this important hearing. And I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank the gentlelady for her comments.

Does any other Member wish to be recognized for purposes of an opening statement?

If not, first of all, we were going to start with Representative Blackburn, but I know she is literally running across from the other building, because we were just watching her on the monitor finishing up her questions at another hearing, so she is on her way.

Mrs. MALONEY. I hate to start without her, because this is truly a bipartisan effort.

The CHAIRMAN. Yeah. That is right.

Mrs. MALONEY. Exactly where is she? Maybe she can get here in time.

The CHAIRMAN. She is coming. She is coming, but I am going to start by introducing you, Carolyn, and we will let you begin as well.

First elected to Congress in 1992, Carolyn Maloney is recognized as a national leader with extensive accomplishments on financial services, national security, the economy, and women's issues. Representative Maloney is the first woman to represent New York's 12th Congressional District and was the first woman to chair the Joint Economic Committee. As a former cochair of the Women's Caucus, Representative Maloney is nationally recognized as an advocate for women and families issues with special emphasis on funding for women's health needs. And she is a member of the U.S. delegations to the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing,

she attended there, and also to the International Conference on Population and Development.

And I will hold my intro of Marsha until she comes, but at this time the chair would like to recognize Representative Carolyn Maloney for her testimony.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mrs. MALONEY. First of all, thank you so much, Chairlady Miller and Ranking Member Brady, represented so ably by my good friend Zoe Lofgren, for the honor of testifying before Congress on what I truly believe is a historic and incredibly important goal, a commission to study the creation of a National Women's History Museum. I truly believe that the best legislation is always bipartisan, and I am thrilled to be working with my good friend, colleague and partner in this, Marsha Blackburn. I thank her for working so hard on the legislation, getting cosponsors and arranging this hearing. I am deeply grateful to the Republican leadership for moving forward with reviewing this and holding this hearing.

And I am also honored to be here with my good friend Joan Wages. She has been a partner in this effort since 1994. She is the president of the National Women's History Museum, a nonprofit that has already begun raising money for this project, compiling and sharing information, and created a Web site for women's history.

For many of us here today, this isn't a hearing, it is a chance to take a historic step forward. In researching for this museum, I could not find any museum in America dedicated to the achievements of half of our population. I not only could not find one in America, I can't find one in the entire world. There are specific museums for First Ladies, for artists and other areas, but not to the achievements of women.

This is, to me, a very personal and important goal, and it came really from my two daughters, who used to say to me at night, "Mommy, why aren't any books written about girls?" All the books that I read them at night, they were always written about boys and boys' achievements. And so we have a historic opportunity to rectify this, and we are testifying today on the importance of this legislation before this important committee, H.R. 863, which would establish a congressional commission to report recommendations to the President and Congress concerning a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC, on or near the Mall.

The commission for the museum would be privately funded, totally funded by taxpayers' money. Women are used to doing everything on our own, and we will build this museum on our own with like-minded men. This is a not-for-profit national history museum, and they are already raising money for this.

We have 44 cosponsors, bipartisan cosponsors, and Senators Susan Collins and Barbara Mikulski have introduced a companion bill in the Senate. I ask for total permission to place in the record the 44 cosponsors, the legislation and the organizations, well over 40 organizations, that have come out and endorsed this important legislation.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, that will be entered into the record.
[The information follows:]



113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 863

To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. BROWN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the "Commission to Study
5 the Potential Creation of a National Women's History
6 Museum Act of 2013".

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
4 means the Commission to Study the Potential Cre-
5 ation of a National Women’s History Museum estab-
6 lished by section 3(a).

7 (2) MUSEUM.—The term “Museum” means the
8 National Women’s History Museum.

9 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Commis-
11 sion to Study the Potential Creation of a National Wom-
12 en’s History Museum.

13 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be com-
14 posed of 8 members, of whom—

15 (1) 2 members shall be appointed by the major-
16 ity leader of the Senate;

17 (2) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speak-
18 er of the House of Representatives;

19 (3) 2 members shall be appointed by the minor-
20 ity leader of the Senate; and

21 (4) 2 members shall be appointed by the minor-
22 ity leader of the House of Representatives.

23 (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Commission
24 shall be appointed to the Commission from among individ-
25 uals, or representatives of institutions or entities, who pos-
26 sess—

1 (1)(A) a demonstrated commitment to the re-
2 search, study, or promotion of women’s history, art,
3 political or economic status, or culture; and

4 (B)(i) expertise in museum administration;

5 (ii) expertise in fundraising for nonprofit or cul-
6 tural institutions;

7 (iii) experience in the study and teaching of
8 women’s history;

9 (iv) experience in studying the issue of the rep-
10 resentation of women in art, life, history, and cul-
11 ture at the Smithsonian Institution; or

12 (v) extensive experience in public or elected
13 service;

14 (2) experience in the administration of, or the
15 planning for, the establishment of, museums; or

16 (3) experience in the planning, design, or con-
17 struction of museum facilities.

18 (d) PROHIBITION.—No employee of the Federal Gov-
19 ernment may serve as a member of the Commission.

20 (e) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The
21 initial members of the Commission shall be appointed not
22 later than the date that is 90 days after the date of enact-
23 ment of this Act.

24 (f) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission—

1 (1) shall not affect the powers of the Commis-
2 sion; and

3 (2) shall be filled in the same manner as the
4 original appointment was made.

5 (g) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall, by ma-
6 jority vote of all of the members, select 1 member of the
7 Commission to serve as the Chairperson of the Commis-
8 sion.

9 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

10 (a) REPORTS.—

11 (1) PLAN OF ACTION.—The Commission shall
12 submit to the President and Congress a report con-
13 taining the recommendations of the Commission
14 with respect to a plan of action for the establishment
15 and maintenance of a National Women’s History
16 Museum in Washington, DC.

17 (2) REPORT ON ISSUES.—The Commission shall
18 submit to the President and Congress a report that
19 addresses the following issues:

20 (A) The availability and cost of collections
21 to be acquired and housed in the Museum.

22 (B) The impact of the Museum on regional
23 women history-related museums.

24 (C) Potential locations for the Museum in
25 Washington, DC, and its environs (including

1 the location located on public land bounded by
2 Independence Avenue SW., 14th Street SW.,
3 15th Street SW., and Jefferson Drive SW., in
4 Washington, DC, that is established subject to
5 chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code
6 (commonly known as the “Commemorative
7 Works Act”).

8 (D) Whether the Museum should be part
9 of the Smithsonian Institution.

10 (E) The governance and organizational
11 structure from which the Museum should oper-
12 ate.

13 (F) Best practices for engaging women in
14 the development and design of the Museum.

15 (G) The cost of constructing, operating,
16 and maintaining the Museum.

17 (3) DEADLINE.—The reports required under
18 paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be submitted not later
19 than the date that is 18 months after the date of
20 the first meeting of the Commission.

21 (b) FUNDRAISING PLAN.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall de-
23 velop a fundraising plan to support the establish-
24 ment and maintenance of the Museum through con-
25 tributions from the public.

1 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the fund-
2 raising plan under paragraph (1), the Commission
3 shall consider—

4 (A) the role of the National Women’s His-
5 tory Museum (a nonprofit, educational organi-
6 zation described in section 501(c)(3) of the In-
7 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 that was incor-
8 porated in 1996 in Washington, DC, and dedi-
9 cated for the purpose of establishing a women’s
10 history museum) in raising funds for the con-
11 struction of the Museum; and

12 (B) issues relating to funding the oper-
13 ations and maintenance of the Museum in per-
14 petuity.

15 (c) LEGISLATION TO CARRY OUT PLAN OF AC-
16 TION.—Based on the recommendations contained in the
17 report submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2) of sub-
18 section (a), the Commission shall submit for consideration
19 to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure,
20 House Administration, Natural Resources, and Appropria-
21 tions of the House of Representatives and the Committees
22 on Rules and Administration, Energy and Natural Re-
23 sources, and Appropriations of the Senate recommenda-
24 tions for a legislative plan of action to establish and con-
25 struct the Museum.

1 (d) NATIONAL CONFERENCE.—Not later than 18
2 months after the date on which the initial members of the
3 Commission are appointed under section 3, the Commis-
4 sion may, in carrying out the duties of the Commission
5 under this section, convene a national conference relating
6 to the Museum, to be comprised of individuals committed
7 to the advancement of the life, art, history, and culture
8 of women.

9 **SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

10 (a) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may em-
12 ploy and compensate an executive director and any
13 other additional personnel that are necessary to en-
14 able the Commission to perform the duties of the
15 Commission.

16 (2) RATES OF PAY.—Rates of pay for persons
17 employed under paragraph (1) shall be consistent
18 with the rates of pay allowed for employees of a tem-
19 porary organization under section 3161 of title 5,
20 United States Code.

21 (b) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—Any individual
22 employed under this Act shall not be considered a Federal
23 employee for the purpose of any law governing Federal
24 employment.

25 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), on
2 request of the Commission, the head of a Federal
3 agency may provide technical assistance to the Com-
4 mission.

5 (2) PROHIBITION.—No Federal employees may
6 be detailed to the Commission.

7 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

8 (a) COMPENSATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Commis-
10 sion—

11 (A) shall not be considered to be a Federal
12 employee for any purpose by reason of service
13 on the Commission; and

14 (B) shall serve without pay.

15 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
16 Commission shall be allowed a per diem allowance
17 for travel expenses, at rates consistent with those
18 authorized under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
19 5, United States Code.

20 (b) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, DEVISES.—The Commission
21 may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or
22 devises of money, services, or real or personal property for
23 the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Com-
24 mission.

1 (c) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The
2 Commission shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory
3 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

4 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

5 The Commission shall terminate on the date that is
6 30 days after the date on which the final versions of the
7 reports required under section 4(a) are submitted.

8 **SEC. 8. FUNDING.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be solely
10 responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and pay-
11 ment of the expenses of, the Commission.

12 (b) PROHIBITION.—No Federal funds may be obli-
13 gated to carry out this Act.

○

H.R. 863 COSPONSORS, ALPHABETICAL [* = original cosponsor]:

Cosponsor Statistics: 43 current (includes 19 original)

Rep Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3] - 4/26/2013

Rep Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3] - 10/30/2013

Rep Brown, Corrine [D-FL-5] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26] - 9/11/2013

Rep Capps, Lois [D-CA-24] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14] - 3/14/2013

Rep Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9] - 9/11/2013

Rep Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1] - 3/14/2013

Rep Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9] - 10/4/2013

Rep Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Ellmers, Renee L. [R-NC-2] - 10/4/2013

Rep Fitzpatrick, Michael G. [R-PA-8] - 10/23/2013

Rep Frelinghuysen, Rodney P. [R-NJ-11] - 8/2/2013

Rep Grijalva, Raul M. [D-AZ-3] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Hahn, Janice [D-CA-44] - 5/9/2013

Rep Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Israel, Steve [D-NY-3] - 12/4/2013

Rep Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9] - 4/26/2013

Rep Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2] - 6/13/2013

Rep Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2] - 10/30/2013

Rep Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13] - 3/14/2013

Rep Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47] - 5/9/2013

Rep Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Moran, James P. [D-VA-8] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32] - 4/10/2013

Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Peters, Gary C. [D-MI-14] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52] - 11/14/2013

Rep Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-13] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40] - 4/23/2013

Rep Sanchez, Loretta [D-CA-46] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14] - 2/27/2013 *

Rep Takano, Mark [D-CA-41] - 6/6/2013

Rep Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20] - 4/26/2013

Rep Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23] - 4/10/2013

Rep Waxman, Henry A. [D-CA-33] - 10/4/2013



NWHM National Coalition

Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance
 Alliance for Women in Media
 American Association of University Women
 American College of Nurse-Midwives
 American Library Association and Committee on Status of Women In Librarianship
 American Society for Public Administration and the Section for Women in Public Administration
 Association for Women in Science
 Association of Junior Leagues International
 Association of Library Information and Science Education
 Association of Women Surgeons
 Business and Professional Women's Foundation
 Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (The)
 Federally Employed Women
 General Federation of Women's Clubs
 Girls, Inc.
 Girls Learn International, Inc.
 Hadassah – The Women's Zionist Organization of America
 League of Women Voters of the United States
 MANA - A National Latina Organization
 National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
 National Association for Female Executives
 National Association of Commissions for Women
 National Association of Women Business Owners
 National Association of Women Judges
 National Coalition of Girls' Schools (The)
 National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc
 National Congress of Black Women

(over)



NWHM National Coalition

National Council of Negro Women
 National Education Association
 National Federation of Black Women Business Owners
 National Federation of Press Women
 National Foundation for Women Legislators, Inc
 National League of American Pen Women
 National Partnership for Women & Families
 National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
 National Women's History Project
 Native American Women's Business Council
 OWL, Older Women's League
 Sewall-Belmont House & Museum
 Society of Bakery Women
 Soroptimist International of the Americas
 Susan B. Anthony House
 Women in Aerospace
 Women in Defense
 Women in Film and Video
 Women in Government Relations
 Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation
 Women's Business Enterprise National Council
 Women's Caucus for Art
 Women Presidents' Organization

Mrs. MALONEY. Women's historical contributions are largely missing from textbooks, memorials, museum exhibits and many other venues. In contrast, thousands of years of history have focused upon the achievement of men. Of the 210 statues in the United States Capitol, only 13 are of female leaders. Fewer than 5 percent of the 2,400 national historic landmarks chronicle women's achievements, and a recent survey of 18 history textbooks found that only 10 percent of the individuals identified in the textbooks were women.

The National Women's History Museum would change that by telling the fascinating, yet mostly untold stories of important women in American history and their contributions, like Agent 355, the mysterious woman who sent vital information to General Washington during the Revolutionary War; or Hedy Lamarr, the Hollywood star who invented a radio-guided torpedo that contained the technology that gave rise to cell phones, Wi-Fi, and GPS; and many, many other important women.

Here in our Nation's Capital, museums have traditionally been a way for our country to proclaim our history, to demonstrate and honor what we value, to educate our children, and to shape our culture. A short walk from where we sit, there are museums dedicated to the Nation's founding, to science, to the arts, to flight, to postage stamps, law enforcement and news, and many other important areas of special interest, yet none is dedicated to half the population. Every scientist, every creator of a postage stamp had a mother, and they did many, many important contributions to our country. Where are their stories told?

But women and their achievements are almost nowhere to be found among these buildings that are supposed to hold the stories of our Nation's journey. This bill seeks to change that. When it opens, the museum will help ensure that future generations will understand the many contributions of women.

It was only recently that in a bipartisan effort with Connie Morella we were able to move the great statue of the great women revolutionary leaders that led to women having the right to vote. Incidentally, they were all Republicans. Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were active Republican leaders in the abolitionist movement, as was Alice Paul, who continued this fight in enacting the 21st Amendment that gave the historic right, an incredible achievement, that half our population had the right to vote. She, incidentally, was also a Republican, and her uncle was a Republican legislator from Pennsylvania.

But this story, I think, tells the problem of how hard it is. Connie Morella and I worked on this moving the statue for 5 years. Can you believe it? Five years to move a statue, to move our revolutionary leaders out of the basement and into the living room of the Capitol with our other great revolutionary leaders, Lincoln and Jefferson and Jackson and Martin Luther King, but it was so difficult that we started a newsletter called "All the Excuses Fit to Print." One of them said that the Capitol Rotunda could not hold the statue. They forgot that it had sat there for 3 days before it was sent to the basement. So we had to go out and raise \$85,000 to fund an engineer's report to determine whether the floor would hold it.

There were so many excuses. They said, we are not having any new statues in the Capitol; meanwhile, they moved in disgraced people, and many, many statues came in. And then finally they said that we had to pay to move it, and it was hundreds of thousands of dollars. We had to move the statue from the basement into the Rotunda to honor the three revolutionary, great leaders that gave half our population the right to vote.

I tell this story because it shows you how hard it is to get anything done relating to women. And I want to publicly thank my colleague Marsha Blackburn for getting this hearing, for getting the cosponsors, for helping to author the legislation, and all of her effort that has brought us to where we are today.

And this statue shows the importance of these women, but there are many other women that have contributed to the success of our great country, and their stories need to be told to inspire our daughters and our sons. And I respectfully suggest that Congress can now at this moment play an important and historic role in seeing to it that half of the population of these United States is actually represented when the history of our great Nation is told, from pioneering women like abolitionist Harriet Tubman to astronaut Sally Ride; from Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to the new leader for General Motors. This is a real historic step forward.

These remarkable women helped make this country what it is today. They deserve a place for their stories to be told and preserved to inspire future generations. But we aren't doing this just to recognize those women who came before us; we are also doing it so that our daughters and our sons and their children have the chance to learn the story, the full story, of how this amazing country came to be.

I want to thank you for the honor and opportunity of testifying before you today, and I hope that this committee will see fit to move this bill forward. And I look forward to working with all of you on this very, very, I believe, historic, and important, and, again, not only an American first, but a national and international first of dedicating, hopefully, after the commission's report, a museum that is dedicated to the achievements of half this great country.

I yield back the balance of my time. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentlewoman very much for her testimony. Excellent, excellent testimony.

[The statement of Mrs. Maloney follows:]

**Remarks for House Admin Comm Hearing
Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-12)
Dec. 11, 2013**

Chairman Miller, Ranking Member Brady, and members of the committee. I am very grateful to you for holding this hearing today on HR 863, a bipartisan bill to establish a commission to study the potential creation of a National Women's History Museum.

I am thrilled to be joined here with my friend and partner in this effort, Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, who has been a great advocate for this important bill.

I'm also pleased to be here with my good friend Joan Wages, the president of the National Women's History Museum, a non-profit that has already begun compiling and sharing the contributions of women who shaped our country.

For many of us – this isn't just a hearing – it is a chance to take a historic step forward.

Here in our nation's Capitol, museums have traditionally been a way for our country to proclaim our history, to demonstrate and honor what we value, to educate our children, and to shape our culture.

A short walk from where we sit – there are museums dedicated to our nation's founding, to science, the arts, to flight, postage stamps, law enforcement, news, and many other important areas of special interest.

But women and their achievements are almost nowhere to be found among these buildings that are supposed hold the stories of our nation's journey.

This bill seeks to change that.

Following the model set with the establishment of previous national museums, such as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, HR 863, would establish a commission to evaluate the idea of, and make recommendations to the President and Congress concerning, a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC, on or near the National Mall.

Most importantly, the commission will fund its own costs so that taxpayers will not shoulder the funding of this project. All of the funding necessary would be raised by the nonprofit National Women's History Museum, Inc.

When it opens, the museum will help ensure that future generations understand what we owe to the generations of American women that came before – and help to advance the goals, and the values of our society.

In my view, this can't happen soon enough. Because the fact is - women's history is not only missing in our nation's capital, it is largely missing nearly everywhere you turn.

According to a survey of eighteen history textbooks, only ten percent of the individuals identified in the texts were women.

Less than five percent of the 2,400 national historic landmarks chronicle women's achievement.

Right here in our Capitol building, there are 210 statues on public display. Just 13 of them, including the Statue of Freedom that sits above our dome, are of female leaders. That's about 6 percent.

It was only recently that the great marble statue of three female suffragists was placed on permanent display in the Capitol Rotunda.

The suffragists' statue had been commissioned way back in 1920, but after being briefly on display, it was banished to the Capitol Crypt for 75 years.

The statue shows three women who played pivotal roles in the passage of the 19th Amendment.

That was of course – the amendment that gave women the right to vote. And for the first time fully -enfranchised one-half of the adult population of the United States. That was truly a historic achievement.

But, according to the New York Times, in 1921, shortly after the statue was completed, Congress ordered workers to scrape off the statue's "blasphemous" inscription, which declared: "Woman, first denied a soul, then called mindless, now arisen, declared herself an entity to be reckoned."

To me, that's an amazing story and a telling one. It shows how difficult it has been for women to be recognized for their achievements, even for what was one of our country's most important moments. In contrast, men have thousands of years of written history available to reflect upon and use for inspiration.

I respectfully suggest that Congress— can now – at this moment - play an important and historic role in seeing to it that half of the population of these United States is actually represented when the history of our nation is told.

From pioneering women like abolitionist Harriet Tubman, to astronaut Sally Ride. From Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, to the founder of the Girl Scouts Juliette Gordon Low.

These remarkable women helped make this country what it is today. They deserve a place for their stories to be told and preserved for the ages.

But we aren't doing this just to recognize those women who came before us. We're also doing this so that our daughters and our sons, and their children have the chance to learn the story - the full story – of how this amazing country came to be.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify before you. I hope this Committee will see fit to move this bill forward and I look forward to working with all of you on this very important endeavor.

The CHAIRMAN. And as we all know, women are multitaskers, and Representative Blackburn certainly has been doing that already this morning. We appreciate her attendance here today and all her work in getting this hearing put together.

As a formal intro, she represents the Seventh District of Tennessee. She was first elected to represent the Seventh Congressional District in Tennessee in 2002, quickly becoming a leader in Congress and a leading voice advocating for small, efficient Federal Government that is accountable to its citizens.

As a small businesswoman, an author, a mother, a grandmother, and a Member of Congress, Marsha Blackburn has dedicated her service to the sacred obligations all citizens have to their communities, and that is making Tennessee and certainly America a better and more prosperous place where all of our children can achieve the American dream.

In April of 2013 at the Women Run the World half marathon in New York City, More Magazine recognized Representative Blackburn for her service in government by honoring her as 1 of 10 women who are making a difference in the world.

She is a founding member of the Republicans Women's Policy Committee and is also a member the Smithsonian Library's Advisory Board. So we welcome her attendance here today, and at this time the chair would recognize Representative Blackburn for her testimony.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Thank you, Chairman Miller. And I apologize to you, to the committee, to the staff and everyone in the room. We were a bit delayed, and I could not leave until I had finished my obligation at our hearing. So I do apologize.

I do appreciate also the effort that has gone into making the hearing possible today. We thank you for this. And thank you for the attention to how we go about with the creation of a privately funded museum to honor the Nation's influential women. And it is my hope that today we will have a well-informed discussion about how we move forward.

I have been pleased to work with Mrs. Maloney on H.R. 863, which would create a commission to study the feasibility of building a women's history museum. As Mrs. Maloney said, she and Senator Collins have worked for many Congresses to secure this effort, and while it would pass in the House or pass in the Senate, we have never been able to line these up and make it happen in the same Congress with each Chamber.

The fact that we are here discussing it today is symbolic, because it is an important time for women in our Nation. Now more than ever, women are starting and running their own companies; they are moving into positions of leadership not only in our Nation, but around the globe; and they are seeking to look at history and the past and role models that have paved the way. Of course, our Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that women now hold 51 percent of all management, professional and related occupations. That number continues to rise, and many women say, how did we get here? On whose shoulders do we stand?

But let us not forget about the women that have persevered and have changed the course of history. Mrs. Maloney mentioned a few. I think we can look at what happened with visionaries like Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man so that she could fight alongside men in the Revolutionary War. We have mentioned Susan B. Anthony, who fought for women's right to vote; Clara Barton, who founded the Red Cross. Or let us not forget Jeannette Rankin, the first woman ever elected to Congress in 1916.

There are countless other women who sacrificed so much to fight for what they believed in spite of very challenging circumstances. Today their legacies live on as women continue to break many historical barriers in our country. In the 113th Congress, we have a record high number of 98 women Members in both the House and the Senate.

All women have their own personal history that they bring to the table. My colleague Mrs. Maloney was the first woman ever elected in her district in New York and has continued to be a trailblazer on so many issues that are very important to her constituency.

While she and I may disagree on some political issues, that is not the case here today. Today we come to lift up women and to help to preserve and share the legacies of women who paved the way before us and have helped to shape the freedom that we in this Nation hold so dear. And in doing so, these stories will inspire future generations by illustration of how that bravery, that patriotism and that perseverance did indeed make a difference. We would not have the freedom and the opportunities that we have today without the sacrifices of those who have gone before us.

This proposed women's history museum would be financed privately and not a dime of taxpayer money. The women's museum project has already had generous support from private donors, and they are willing to move forward to make it happen. The hearing is a good step. It lays out how this bill would have a commission of eight members chosen equally by the leadership in both parties of the House and the Senate who have demonstrated their commitment to study and teaching of women's history. They will examine possible locations, devise fundraising strategies, and analyze overall logistics of building the museum, and assess the feasibility of the total project.

As we discuss the bill and the steps forward, I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions and working to make this a reality.

Again, I apologize for my tardiness, I thank you all for the courtesy of the hearing, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

[The statement of Mrs. Blackburn follows:]

Rep. Marsha Blackburn
Testimony in Support

Hearing on “Establishing a Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women’s History Museum”
December 11, 2013

Chairman Miller, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me here today and giving me the opportunity to testify in support of this very important initiative.

I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Committee to make this hearing happen, and for taking a serious look at how we should best move forward with the long- overdue creation of a privately-funded museum to honor our nation’s influential women throughout history. It is my sincere hope that today we will have an informative discussion on how we can make this come to fruition, and that we are able to move this legislation to the floor for consideration of the full House.

Back in February, I was pleased to work with my colleague, Congressman Carolyn Maloney, to introduce H.R. 863, legislation designed to create a commission to study the feasibility of building a Women’s History Museum. Congressman Maloney and Senator Susan Collins have been actively trying to pass similar legislation in the past few Congresses, and while they have had success in passing it by voice vote in the House and by unanimous consent in the Senate, the bills have never passed both chambers in the same Congress.

The fact that we are here today discussing this is a symbolic message that the time has come to move this forward this Congress, and I am hopefully that we can come together to do so. This is a very crucial time in our nation and world for women.

Now more than ever, women are starting and running their own companies, and moving into positions of leadership in the corporate world. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that women hold more than 51% of all management, professional, and related occupations, and that number will only continue to rise.

But let us not forget about those women who persevered and changed the course of history at times in our history when opportunities for women were limited and frowned upon. Our nation would not be what it is today without visionaries like Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man to fight alongside her countrymen in the Revolutionary War; or Susan B. Anthony, who fought for women’s right to vote; or Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross; Or, last but not least, Jeannette Rankin- the first woman ever elected to the US Congress in 1916. There are

countless other women who sacrificed so much to fight for what they believed in despite their tough circumstances.

Today their legacies live on as women continue to break historical barriers and reach new heights. In the 113th congress we have a record high number of 98 women members in both chambers of congress. All women have their own personal history they can bring to the table.

My fellow female colleague here was the first woman ever elected in her Congressional District in New York and has continued to be a trail blazer on so many issues important to her and her constituency. I started my professional career by convincing the company I worked for- Southwestern Company- that I could sell books just as well if not better than any man, and after proving myself true to that, they made me the first ever sales woman in a male-dominated sales team.

While Congressman Maloney and I may disagree on some political issues, that is not what today is about. Today is about coming together to lift up women and helping to preserve and share the legacies of women who paved the way before us and helped shape the nation that we hold so dear. And in doing so, these stories will inspire future generations by illustration how bravery, patriotism, and perseverance can truly make a difference. We would not have the freedom and opportunity that we have today without the sacrifices of those that have gone before us.

This proposed women's history museum would be financed privately only and not a dime of taxpayer money. The museum has already had generous support from women like Meryl Streep and other private donors who want to do what they can to make it happen. Moving forward with plans to create the museum will only garner more support and donations from people who believe in the purpose and direction of the museum.

This bill is the first step forward. It lays out steps to set up a commission of 8 members- chosen equally by the leadership in both parties of the House and Senate- who have demonstrated their commitment to the study or teaching of women's history. They will examine possible locations, devise fundraising strategies, analyze overall logistics of building the museum and assess the feasibility.

As we discuss this bill and the steps forward, I look forward to hearing ideas and suggestions to help this become a reality. I am honored to with my colleague Carolyn Maloney to help get this bill passed. I thank the committee again for allowing me to testify this morning and I hope that we can work together to honor our nation's women.

The CHAIRMAN. And I want to thank both our witnesses in the first panel for appearing here before the committee today, and I certainly again want to thank both of you for pushing, pushing us all along here. And certainly having this hearing today, I think, is a tremendous first step, and in our next panel we will be really outlining some more specifics about how we might proceed with this.

But I tell you in this age of sometimes people think we can't work together, we know as women that we can work together certainly, and I think this is a great example of a bipartisan effort to move forward, and I just appreciate that very much.

Any other Members have question or comment?

Mr. HARPER. Being the father of a now 22-year-old daughter, I certainly know how important it is to have great role models. And my daughter, when she was 17, had the privilege of sitting down with Marsha Blackburn and being inspired by her, following her in her footsteps to Mississippi State University, where she graduated in 3 years. And so I thank you, Congresswoman Blackburn, for your input and influence with my daughter. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Ms. LOFGREN. I would just—it is the committee practice not to ask questions of Members who testify. I know that we will adhere to that, but I just want to thank both Representatives for their leadership on this issue. I am so enthused that we can move forward on this with your strong support, so thank you for your work.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you both very much. Merry Christmas.

Mrs. MALONEY. Merry Christmas.

The CHAIRMAN. We appreciate you coming.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. At this time, we will excuse our first panel, and we will ask that our second panelist be seated.

Before I introduce our panelist, I would ask unanimous consent for the committee to enter into the record two items: first of all, a statement from the American Association of University Women establishing a commission to study the potential creation of a National Women's History Museum. And without objection, that will be entered into the record as well.

[The information follows:]



Written Statement of

**Lisa Maatz
Vice President of Government Relations
American Association of University Women (AAUW)**

**“Establishing a Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a
National Women’s History Museum”**

**United States House of Representatives
House Administration Committee**

December 11, 2013

Chairwoman Miller, Ranking Member Brady, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit input about establishing a commission to study the creation of a National Women’s History Museum.

On behalf of the approximately 170,000 bipartisan members and supporters of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), I am pleased to share AAUW’s perspective on this important issue. Since its founding in 1881, AAUW has been breaking through barriers for women and girls. Given our own long and storied history, we have a unique appreciation for the idea of a National Women’s History Museum.

AAUW is a strong supporter of the legislation, "Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013" (H.R. 863), introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). The bill creates a Commission that would report to Congress about possible exhibits, fundraising capacity, locations, and costs for a National Women’s History Museum. In addition, the Commission would establish a plan of action including recommending necessary legislation to make such a museum a reality. AAUW believes that the House should take action on H.R. 863; its bipartisan plan strikes just the right note, and will work to find the most feasible ways to acknowledge the generations of women who played a role in shaping our communities and our nation.

A National Women’s History Museum, particularly on the National Mall, would forever mark the many accomplishments of extraordinary women in our country’s history. Perhaps more importantly it would also more fully showcase the daily contributions of American women in the remarkable history of our nation. From the most famous to the most typical, women have made meaningful and lasting contributions to the marketplace, laboratory, government, entertainment industry, classroom, home, and family. A visible location on the National Mall would underscore the importance of women to our nation’s development, and inspire and educate visitors from around the world.

AAUW strongly supports H.R. 863 and is a proud member of the National Women's History Museum (NWHM) Coalition, a group of national women's professional and service organizations committed to supporting the NWHM mission. AAUW believes that your support to take steps towards building a National Women's History Museum will help send a message of inclusion nationwide and worldwide, and serve as an important symbol of our country's honor and respect for women and their contributions.

Again, I urge you to support the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013 (H.R. 863).

Thank you for this opportunity. We are pleased to be working with you on this critical issue.

The CHAIRMAN. At this time I would like to introduce our second panelist, our next witness. Joan Bradley Wages is the president and CEO of the National Women's History Museum. She has been working to make this museum a reality for at least 15 years, if not longer. She began as one of the founding board members that ultimately led to her serving as the champion for this museum. And throughout her career, she has focused on women's issues on Capitol Hill, which culminated when she served as the founding board member of the National Women's History Museum. And while we cannot assume a potential commission would tap the nonprofit National Women's History Museum as the appropriate entity to become the national museum, Ms. Wages has been at the forefront certainly of promoting this issue, developing a concept for such a museum, seeking support, and tackling organizational and fundraising issues, and certainly those experiences can certainly help inform our deliberations today. So we certainly appreciate your attendance here today, and your passion and commitment and dedication to this issue.

And at this time the chair would recognize Ms. Wages for her testimony.

**STATEMENT OF JOAN BRADLEY WAGES, PRESIDENT AND CEO,
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM**

Ms. WAGES. Thank you so much. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Representatives Lofgren and Harper. We so appreciate this opportunity to make a presentation to your committee and to——

The CHAIRMAN. Is your microphone on? Excuse me. I just—thank you.

Ms. WAGES. There we go. Okay.

Madam Chair, Representatives Lofgren and Harper, thank you so much for scheduling this hearing and for allowing the National Women's History Museum an opportunity to appear in support of establishing a commission to investigate the feasibility and need for a museum to honor contributions of women to our Nation. We are so appreciative to Representatives Blackburn and Maloney for their tireless efforts to move this forward.

My name is Joan Wages, and I am president and CEO at the National Women's History Museum. I ask that my entire statement be entered into the record, and I will give you a summary.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

Ms. WAGES. As mentioned, legislation is pending in the House and Senate that would create a congressional commission to study the potential creation of a federally authorized museum to recognize and honor women.

History is empowering. It shapes who we are and provides role models to guide us, yet women stand on historical quicksand. With each step forward, the one behind disappears. By all evidence, at least half of our population has lived a life only to become in large part invisible.

The mission of the National Women's History Museum is to bring women's history into our mainstream culture so that the general public is aware of such historic figures as Sybil Luddington, who,

like Paul Revere, rode all night on horseback during the Revolutionary War to alert the militia that the British were coming.

Women's history also includes recognition of the collective efforts of women to enrich society. It was women who lobbied for the pasteurization of milk, vaccinations for our children, and sewage systems for our communities. Women have succeeded in shaping our Nation in important and in lasting ways. Women have woven the very fabric of this Nation, whether through the essential role of motherhood or in the fields of education, health care, business, technology, entertainment. No matter what the field of endeavor, women have been there.

I have personally dedicated my work on establishing this museum to the memory of my mother, whose love and caring is with me today. Abraham Lincoln said it best: Everything I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my mother. It is far beyond time for the women of our Nation to be recognized.

By way of background, the National Women's History Museum, as it exists today, was incorporated in Washington, DC, in 1996 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization, and its first project was to lobby Congress and raise the funds to relocate the Portrait Monument of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott. We succeeded, and the statue was moved from the crypt into the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol on Mother's Day of 1997, where it still stands today. Now millions of visitors to the Capitol have an opportunity to see our foremothers standing alongside our Nation's forefathers.

Since its inception the National Women's History Museum has raised over \$12 million. We have developed an extensive Web site with 24 online exhibits and over 300 biographies on women. We have placed \$1 million in reserve to potentially underwrite the commission, or as a deposit toward the design and development of the museum so that no taxpayers' dollars will be used for this endeavor. We have celebrity ambassadors and supporters like Alfre Woodard, Meryl Streep, Kate Walsh and Geena Davis; women's history scholars; and more than 50,000 charter members. We have partnered with the George Washington University on a lecture series. We have produced a public service announcement that was directed by acclaimed filmmaker Catherine Hardewick. And we have widespread bipartisan support.

The National Women's History Museum now embraces the project of advancing a permanent museum in our Nation's Capital recognizing and honoring half of our Nation's history, women's history.

In conclusion, I give you one astonishing fact. There is no world-class women's history museum in any nation's capital in the world. A museum established by this commission would be the first in any nation to show the full scope of the history of its women, thereby serving as a beacon to people everywhere. It is vital that America, a Nation that has done so much to advance equality, houses the National Women's History Museum to celebrate the deep and lasting impact women have made.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. We certainly appreciate your opening remarks there.
[The statement of Ms. Wages follows:]



National Women's History Museum
Committee on House Administration
U. S House of Representatives
December 11, 2013

Thank you, Chairwoman Miller and Ranking Member Brady for scheduling this hearing and for allowing the National Women's History Museum (NWHM) an opportunity to appear in support of establishing a commission to investigate the feasibility and need for a museum to honor the contributions of women to our nation's history. My name is Joan Wages and I am President and CEO of the National Women's History Museum. I ask that my entire statement be entered into the record, and I will provide a 5 minute summary of my written statement.

Currently, legislation is pending in the House (H.R 863) and Senate (S.398) that would create a congressional commission to study the potential creation of a federally authorized museum to recognize and honor women: Specifically, it would authorize a commission to determine the feasibility and need for such a museum in the nation's capital. The commission would be tasked with producing a report that would address: The impact of the Museum on regional women history-related museums, potential locations for the Museum in Washington, DC and its environs, whether the Museum should be part of the Smithsonian Institution, governance and organization structure for such a museum, best practices for engaging women in the development and design of the Museum, and cost of constructing, operating and maintaining the Museum. The legislation calls for the commission to be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for and payments of the expenses of the Commission.

History is empowering. It shapes who we are and provides role models to guide us. Yet, women stand on historical quicksand. With each step we take forward, the step behind us disappears. As one of our historians describes it, "Women have to re-create the wheel with every generation." By all evidence, at least half of our population has lived a life – only to become — in large part — invisible.

Women have helped forge our nation and have risen to its defense throughout our history. Every day our lives are touched by the cultural, societal, and financial achievements of women in our nation's development, with advances in industry, medicine, and the arts. Legislation for a Commission to create a museum to honor our nation's women would be an important step to recognize these achievements.

The mission of the NWHM is to bring women's history into our mainstream culture so that the general public is aware of the notable accomplishments of such historic figures as Sybil Luddington, who, like Paul Revere, rode all night on horseback during the Revolutionary War to alert the militia that the British were coming, or Deborah Sampson who felt so fiercely and passionately patriotic that she dressed like a man so she could carry a rifle and fight in the Revolutionary War or Catherine Littlefield Greene who had the idea for the cotton gin and helped Eli Whitney develop it, and paid the patent fee.

That said, women's history is not focused strictly on the accomplishments and contributions of individuals. Rather, it includes recognition of the collective efforts of women to enrich society. It was women who lobbied for the pasteurization of milk, vaccinations for our children, and sewage systems for our communities. Women banded together during World War II to support the war effort – not just as riveters, but in so many important and diverse ways. They planted victory gardens, donated nylons to be used for making equipment and even took up collections that yielded enough money to purchase aircraft bombers. Women have succeeded in shaping our nation in important and lasting ways.

One needs to go no further than today's history textbooks to see why such a museum is so important. Approximately 10% of historic references in such textbooks refer to women. Less than 8% of statues in National Parks are of women leaders. And our U.S. Capitol Building, which hosts millions of tourists each year, displays only 15 statues of women -- out of some 218 currently on exhibit. There are only two statues of women on the National Mall. Of the 76 museums, memorials, and exhibits in Washington, only 4 feature works or accomplishments of women. Women have mostly been left out of our national narrative.

Each year the National Women's History Museum's hosts *The de Pizan Honors*. Honorees last year included the Honorable Elizabeth Dole, photographer Annie Liebovitz and Poet Maya Angelou. This year's event honored the opera great Denyce Graves, actress and activist Phylicia Rashad and Dr. Etta Pisano, a pioneer in the field of radiology whose work in screening for and diagnosing breast cancer has gained national recognition and led to her being named one of the 20 most influential people in the field of radiology.

Upon accepting her award, Dr. Pisano became quite emotional -- as did the audience -- when she spoke of losing her mother to breast cancer when she was only 15 and the oldest of seven children. When I spoke to her backstage she confided being caught off guard by the wave of emotion when speaking of her mother. It had been 40 years since her passing. The ties between a mother and her children are so strong, that long after they leave us, the connection remains as strong as ever. Our mothers give us life. and that's the one common thread that every human shares -- we are here because of our mothers. I have personally dedicated my work on establishing this Museum to the memory of my mother whose love and caring is with me to this day. Abraham Lincoln said it best, "Everything I am, or ever hope to be, I owe to my mother."

Women have woven the very fabric of this nation -- whether through the essential role of motherhood or in the fields of education, healthcare, business, technology, entertainment -- no matter what the field of endeavor, women have been there. It is **far** beyond time for the women of our nation to be recognized.

By way of background, the NWHM, as it exists today, was incorporated in Washington, DC in 1996 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, educational organization and initiated as its first project the relocation of the Portrait Monument of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott from the Crypt to the Rotunda of the United States Capitol. The statue had been dedicated in the Rotunda in 1921 to celebrate passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution, providing for women's right to vote. The statue was then relocated to the Crypt where it remained for 76 years. Several attempts were made by women's groups to seek authority from Congress to relocate the statue back to the Rotunda, where our Foremothers would stand alongside our Forefathers, but they were unsuccessful.

The NWHM embraced this project because it represented the pathway of women's history – it comes to the light of day for a brief moment and then is stored away in the archives, library or crypt. It does not remain part of the story.

After raising funds to defray expenses to relocate the statue, the NWHM convinced Congress to relocate the statue to the Rotunda. It was moved on Mother's Day of 1997 and remains there to this day. Now, millions of visitors to the Capitol have an opportunity to view the statue and be inspired by the grit and determination of the three women depicted, and the 72-year campaign for the right to vote, which, by the way, resulted in enfranchising more citizens than any act of Congress before or since.

The National Women's History Museum now embraces the project of advancing a permanent museum in our nation's capital recognizing and honoring half of our nation's history – women's history. The establishment of a feasibility commission is the first step. There is precedence for a commission of this kind. The National Museum of African American History and Culture, and The National Museum of the American Latino had Congressional commissions and provided similar reports to Congress, including site recommendations for their permanent homes. The Holocaust Museum had its origin through a Presidential Commission before securing a site on 14th Street

adjacent to Independence Avenue. Today, the African American Museum is constructing its home on a site between 14th Street and 15th Street on Constitution Avenue, and the American Latino Museum Commission has identified three possible sites for its museum.

Since its inception, the NWHM has raised over \$12 million, mainly from individual donations, and developed an extensive website with 24 on-line exhibits and over 300 biographies of women. It has also placed \$1 million in reserve to potentially underwrite the Commission or as a deposit toward the design and development of the Museum, so that no taxpayer dollars will be used for this endeavor. A women's museum would demonstrate the gratitude and respect we owe to the many generations of American women who have helped build, sustain, and advance our society and for that reason, celebrity ambassadors like Alfre Woodard, Kate Walsh and Geena Davis, women's history scholars, and the more than 50,000 Museum Charter Members have dedicated their time, money and expertise to this endeavor. Actress Meryl Streep pledged one million dollars – her salary from *Iron Lady*, the widely acclaimed motion picture about the life of Lady Margaret Thatcher, Great Britain's first woman and longest serving Prime Minister.

The NWHM is also hosting a number of educational endeavors. Earlier this year, the Museum agreed to partner with The George Washington University on a lecture series entitled *Initiating Changes/Adapting to Change*. The forum offers an opportunity for a women's history scholar and a contemporary individual to discuss a topic guided by a moderator. Recent topics included *A New Order: Change for Women in the U.S. Military* and *Making a Business of Change: American Women in Business*. Next year's programs include *Game Changers: American Women & Sports* and *Women and the Civil Rights Movement*. Nearly two hundred attended the first two events.

Also, this past year the NWHM produced a public service announcement directed by acclaimed filmmaker Catherine Hardwicke with Actress Alfre Woodard as spokeswoman and an online exhibit on Women Entrepreneurs sponsored by Microsoft.

In an effort to raise awareness about women's history, the Museum has distributed over 5 million pieces of mail consisting of historical information and educational materials about women's history as well as fundraising appeals; we have established a "preview" exhibit in our offices in Alexandria, Virginia, with an independently appraised value of \$97,000; and we have curated and displayed 4 "traveling exhibits" in Washington, DC and New York City.

The Museum has widespread, bipartisan support. In 1999, The President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History called for the creation of a women's history museum, recognizing NWHM for its support. In 2004 and 2007 The United States Senate passed legislation authorizing a site. In October 2009, the House approved legislation authorizing the acquisition of a site. In the past 12 years, there have been 288 cosponsors of legislation authorizing the acquisition of a site for a women's history museum --183 members of the House, and 105 members of the Senate.

Conclusion

In conclusion. I will leave you with one astonishing fact: There is no world-class women's history museum in any nation's capitol in the world. A museum established under the auspices of this Commission would be the first in any nation to show the full scope of the history of its women; thereby serving as a beacon to people everywhere. It will stand as further testament that America is **truly** a nation of liberty and justice for **all**.

It is vital that America, a nation that has done so much to advance equality for women, houses the National Women's History Museum to celebrate the deep and lasting impact women have made. This legislation will provide a blueprint of steps to take in order to finally honor 51% of our population. I am certain that you would agree with me that women are worthy of being recognized as one of our national treasures. Passing this legislation is the right thing for Congress to do.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.

The CHAIRMAN. As has been mentioned, and certainly with our first panel as well and my opening statement, Ms. Lofgren as well, I think we all have concerns about the budget constraints and the money, where is the money coming from. And, you know, in this town everything—every conversation really ratchets off that. So I think certainly it is certainly refreshing to hear that the women's history museum could be solely funded by private contributions.

I guess I would like to just explore that a bit more with you, because that is probably the biggest stumbling block, I think, that we—well, we have got a couple, but certainly that, a marquis issue as we go forward. So could you talk a little bit about how confident you are in assessment for not only the construction of it, but the maintenance of it?

And then as we look at legislation, certainly one of the things is you don't want something to go off infinitum; you would like to have a start and a conclusion, a timeframe, et cetera, for it, or even thinking about the possibility of putting a sunset provision in there or some sort of constraints to make sure that there is a matrix, an accountability matrix, to make sure the project is moving along. What are some of your thoughts on that?

Ms. WAGES. We have studied, talked to, worked with various consultants and experts in the field of building museums, so we would hope to be able to build a museum between 400- and \$500 million. I think that that is kind of the going price. And that would include the exhibits, the interior, as well as the construction of the museum. It appears that annual operating will be around 15- to \$20 million a year.

Again, we have talked to many experts. We believe that representing over half of the Nation's population and then the other half who love their mother are going to come in and contribute to the building of this museum.

So we believe that the resources are there. We have worked to put together—we have a fundraising plan that if you pass this bill today, we could start working tomorrow. We would celebrate tonight, but we would start working tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN. First celebrate, then work, right?

Ms. WAGES. Celebrate then work, yes.

The CHAIRMAN. That is right.

Ms. WAGES. And so we feel quite confident that—we have raised more money to this point than any other museum has at this stage in their development. And we get—again, we have 50,000 charter members. We get thousands of letters from women saying, I worked my entire career, and I didn't get the respect or I didn't get the opportunity that I could have and should have had. And so those women are now towards the point of retirement and looking at where they want to leave bequests and those types of things.

So there is a tremendous opportunity here, and we believe that we can make this happen.

The CHAIRMAN. You know, the other issue as well, as we said, the money certainly, but then the location. And obviously the Mall, everybody wants to be on the Mall, and that has always been—we have obviously a very limited amount of space there. And I know you have had some experience on your journey here all of these years of looking at other sites rather than the Mall, but maybe in

the Capital City here, maybe even in some other location that has some significant event, a women's event or something. Maybe you could speak a little bit to what your thoughts are of the location of such a museum.

Ms. WAGES. We have looked at more than 40 locations, private and government owned, and it comes down to where will the most people visit the museum; where would we locate the museum in order to have the greatest impact. I mean, after working on it for this long, we certainly want to make sure that it is a success, and that millions of people are coming to this museum, so that narrows it down pretty quickly to something that is on or very, very close to the National Mall.

And as you said, there is limited space on the Mall, but we even have a historical justification for why we should be there—the African American Museum is now under construction, African American men were the next to the last to be granted the vote, and women were the last to be granted the vote, and so that last spot is just being saved for us.

The CHAIRMAN. Very good.

Ms. WAGES. Yeah. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Very good answer.

With that, the chair recognizes the gentlelady from California for her questions.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you, Madam Chair.

And before asking anything, let me just express my thanks to you for your years of work for this on behalf of the people of our wonderful country; not only this, but your efforts in the portrait monument. You know, it is all very meaningful, and we are grateful to you.

You know, thinking about location, I do agree that a spot on or near the Mall would be ideal. What I am wondering is we have got a moving target in some ways. I mean, for example, the FBI is going to be vacating its spot. We had a hearing—I was unable to go because of a conflict with the Judiciary Committee—and I don't think we are ready to move yet on the printing office, but certainly the requirement for space is very different in the digital world than it has been in the past. So I am just suggesting that there are some publicly owned facilities that we need to think about as we think about what to do with our museum needs. Obviously we are going to have to need a space for the American Latino project as well, and we certainly want to do everything.

So have you looked at those outlying efforts for facilities that could become available?

Ms. WAGES. We have. We keep our fingers on the pulse through our advisors and consultants, and so we are aware of the FBI building coming down. Also a little bit further out is the 10th Street corridor, that may be renovated. And so we are not opposed to talking about any of these locations.

Ms. LOFGREN. The other question I have has to do with governance. Now, the Smithsonian has a specific governance structure which it follows in its museums. There is a board of regents, the secretary, museum advisory board, museum director. Is that something that you are envisioning for this museum?

Ms. WAGES. We envisioned that we would definitely have an advisory board and a board, depending on what the ultimate structure is. So we have looked at Smithsonian's structure. I mean, they largely have that structure because they are a quasi-government entity, and we have been looking at being a private entity, but if an opportunity opened to become part of the Smithsonian family, we would certainly welcome the opportunity to discuss it.

Our largest concern around that are the funds that Congress needs to allocate to Smithsonian entities, so if there is a way that we could have the best of all worlds, a quasi-Smithsonian privately funded, we would, you know, be thrilled to discuss that.

Ms. LOFGREN. Well, that could be difficult, but as far as we are concerned, nothing is impossible. So I do think, you know, it is important that, as with the most of the museums, that this be available on a free basis to the public, if at all possible. And one of the great things about visitors coming to Washington, and you can contrast it to going to other world capitals where you have to pay a lot of money, here you can see the children coming in, it is available to the American public, which is something we want to preserve, and I know you wish to as well. So as we move forward, I think we are going to have to be creative about how we do a blended approach, and I know that your commitment and creativity will be key to that.

So I don't have further questions except just to say thank you for all you have done, but, even more, thank you for what you are continuing to do.

I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The chair certainly thanks the gentlelady for her questions and comments, and we certainly want to thank you as well. And just a couple of not questions really, but follow-on comments about the two biggest stumbling blocks you have here.

And as Ms. Lofgren was mentioning about the Government Printing Office, we actually had a hearing here just last week about that and their spot, which is an excellent location, as you know, right next to the Senate there. I think they were saying they have 75,000 square foot of space almost immediately available for lease. I am just saying, picking up on some of the areas that are in the immediate vicinity here, that keeping an open mind of where, that is something I think this committee would be very looking forward to working with you on, identifying various locations.

And then I think also, and certainly in regards to the funding, the funding level, and as you mentioned, in a perfect world what would be optimal really where you had a sort of partnership, a really public-private partnership—

Ms. WAGES. Right.

The CHAIRMAN [continuing]. If you will. I tell you, that really is the wave of the future in so many things that government does. I also sit on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and as we are looking at a 5-year reauthorization of how we rebuild this Nation's infrastructure with roads and bridges and everything else, you see that there are so many areas where government just doesn't have the funding for everything. We need to enter into pub-

lic-private agreements for all kinds of different areas. This may be, again, women being on the leading edge of all of these things.

Ms. WAGES. Trendsetters.

The CHAIRMAN. We are trendsetters, right?

So just another area, I think, where it is great you have a really open mind on how some of these things could possibly happen, because where there is a will, there certainly is a way, there is a way forward, and that is really the impetus of this hearing. And so I think it has been an excellent hearing. We got a lot of ideas out on the table, and I look forward to this committee continuing to work on this issue. Thank you so very much.

Ms. WAGES. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. And without objection, I would say all Members will have 5 legislative days to submit to the chair additional written questions for the witnesses, which we will forward and ask the witnesses to respond to as promptly as they can so that their answers can be made part of the record if there are any further questions.

And with that, the hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:30 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

[Written questions and answers for the record follow:]

CANDICE S. MILLER, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN

GREGG HARPER, MISSISSIPPI
PHIL GINGREY, GEORGIA
AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS
TODD ROKITA, INDIANA
RICH NUGENT, FLORIDA

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ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA
JUAN VARGAS, CALIFORNIA

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH
CONGRESS

KYLE ANDERSON, MINORITY STAFF
DIRECTOR

January 28, 2014

Ms. Joan Bradley Wages
President and CEO
National Women's History Museum
205 S. Whiting Street Suite 254
Alexandria, VA 22304

Dear Ms. Wages,

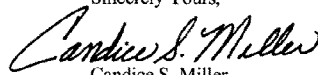
Thank you for testifying during the December 11, 2013 Committee on House Administration Hearing on **"Establishing a Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum."** The Committee requests you respond to additional questions that will be made part of the hearing record. Please provide your responses to the following questions to the Committee **by February 11, 2014.**

1. Identifying both ingredients for success and obstacles in creating a museum can help inform a commission's work. What do you see as some key ingredients to creating a successful museum and generating public interest in it? What do you envision as the greatest challenges in establishing a museum?
2. There are a number of other museums and centers dedicated to women's history and contributions such as the National Museum of Women in the Arts and the U.S. Army Women's Museum. Do you have any recommendations for how a potential new national museum of women's history can prevent overlap with these entities and best leverage these resources?
3. How has your organization approached collections development? What lessons has your organization learned that could help a potential new museum develop a national collection representing the full spectrum of women's history and contributions?

4. In your opinion, why is it preferable to establish a separate women's history museum rather than push for highlighting and more fully integrating women's contributions and history into existing Smithsonian museums?

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact Yael Barash on the Committee staff at (202) 225-8281. Thank you again for your testimony, we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candice S. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Candice S. Miller
Chairman



February 2, 2014

The Honorable Candice Miller
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6157

Dear Chairman Miller:

Thank you again for inviting me to testify at the December 11, 2013 hearing ("Establishing a Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum (NWHM)"). As President of NWHM, I greatly appreciated the opportunity to present the importance and critical need for a national women's history museum, to commemorate women's history and to illuminate the role of women in society. I am pleased to provide our responses to the written questions for the record that have been posed.

1. Identifying both ingredients for success and obstacles in creating a museum can help inform a commission's work. What do you see as some key ingredients to creating a successful museum and generating public interest in it? What do you envision as the greatest challenges in establishing a museum?

Response: The paramount function of a women's history museum will be to provide valuable and relevant learning opportunities to the public, so the first ingredient for a museum's success is to understand its position in the current, and future, public education environment. The formal U.S. educational system is on the cusp of profound transformation as it moves—propelled by new technologies—toward a future of open, collaborative, and self-directed learning.¹ The museum, as a form of interactive and elective education, will be a crucial player in this shift.² An effective women's history museum will position itself on the cutting edge of those changes, as the National Women's History Museum already is through our Interpretive and Strategic Planning. NWHM also stays abreast of these trends through a variety of advisors from industry, academia, and politics—for example, The Center for the Future of Museums at the American Alliance of Museums, an organization which represents the interest of tens of thousands of U.S. museums.

To maximize its impact and to generate public interest, a women's history museum

¹ Kratz, Scott, and Elizabeth Merritt. "Museums and the future of education." *On The Horizon* 19, no. 3 (2011): 188-95.

² Ibid.

will need to be (1) relevant and (2) accessible. A national women's history museum will provide contextualized content that is personal and applicable—*relevant*—to all of its audiences.³

(1) *Relevancy*

Our future hinges on the empowerment and equal inclusion of women in every aspect of our society. We've seen what women can accomplish with a seat at the table; one needs to look no further than the actions of our admirable female senators last October to know this.⁴ And yet, women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar a man makes, a figure which has not budged with any statistical significance since 2007; we still have a long way to go.⁵ Knowledge of women's history is extraordinarily relevant to *all* of our citizens—male and female—as we attempt to become a nation that provides equal opportunity for men and women.

In light of this, NWHM is identifying our varied and expansive audiences, and the Museum will provide content and experiences that are *relevant* to their diverse lives and futures. For example: young girls—that is, half of our future workforce—are consistently marginalized by gendered stereotypes about what fields offer them advancement, and what their success looks like.⁶ Female role models can help mitigate the debilitating effects of this stereotype threat.⁷ At present, however, young girls simply don't have access to those empowering role models in studies of their history, and NWHM is working to fill that void.⁸ As a facilitator of empowering and relevant learning, a women's history museum will help to break down those constructed and internalized barriers for both young girls and young boys.

³ Ferren, Bran. "The Future of Museums: Asking the Right Questions." *The Journal of Museum Education* 22, no. 1 (Winter 1997): 3-7.

⁴ Weisman, Jonathan, and Jennifer Steinhauer. "Senate Women Lead in Effort to Find Accord." *The New York Times*, October 15, 2013, sec. A, p. 1. Bassett, Laura. "Men Got Us Into The Shutdown, Women Got Us Out." *Huffington Post*, October 16, 2013.

⁵ DeNavas-Walt, Carmen, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith. 2013 U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60-245. *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2013.

⁶ Spencer, Steven, Claude Steele, and Diane Quinn. "Stereotype threat and women's math performance." *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* 35, no. 1 (January 1999): 4-28. Hill, Catherine, Christianne Corbett, and Andresse St. Rose. "Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics." *American Association of University Women* (2008).

⁷ Marx, David M., and Jasmin S. Roman. "Female Role Models: Protecting Women's Math Test Performance." *Pers Soc Psychol Bull* 28, no. 9 (September 2002): 1183-93. Young, Danielle M., Laurie A. Rudman, Helen M. Buettner, and Meghan C. McLean. "The Influence of Female Role Models on Women's Implicit Science Cognitions." *Psychology of Women Quarterly* 37, no. 3 (September 2013): 283-92. McIntyre, Rusty B., René M. Paulson, Cheryl A. Taylor, Amanda L. Morin, and Charles G. Lord. "Effects of role model deservingness on overcoming performance deficits induced by stereotype threat." *European Journal of Social Psychology* 41, no. 3 (April 2011): 301-11.

⁸ Chick, Kay A. "Gender Balance in K-12 American History Textbooks." *Social Studies Research and Practice* 1, no. 3 (Winter 2006). Sadker, Myra, and David Sadker. *Failing at fairness: How America's schools cheat girls*. New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 1994. Clark, Roger, Jeffrey Allard, and Timothy Mahoney. "How Much of the Sky? Women in American High School History Textbooks from the 1960s, 1980s and 1990s." *Social Education* 68, no. 1 (January 2004): 57-62. American Association of University Women. *How Schools Shortchange Girls: The AAUW Report: A Study of Major Findings on Girls and Education*. Washington, D.C.: Marlowe & Company, 1995.

(2) *Accessibility*

The production of relevant content, however, will be for naught if it isn't widely accessible.⁹ The accessibility is determined by a number of factors—not only physical accessibility, but virtual, emotional, and intellectual accessibility as well. As a facilitator of relevant, contextualized learning for a variety of audiences, a women's history museum must make this knowledge readily available to those audiences.

In our Interpretive and Strategic Planning, NWHM is already grappling with questions of accessibility. Are our programs, and our web presence, handicap accessible? Is our online content optimized for any kind of device, including mobile? Does the content of our exhibits have multiple entry and exit points for audiences of varied ages and lived experiences?¹⁰ The ultimate form of accessibility is, of course, a physical building. To maximize access, a national women's history museum must have a home in the most accessible location of our nation's capital: the National Mall. Securing an accessible location is a critical challenge.

These are the two foremost challenges facing the NWHM: passage of effective legislation authorizing the establishment of the NWHM along with on-site acquisition, and raising the funds necessary to underwrite the design, construction and operations, with curatorial support, of a world-class museum. Several fundraising professionals with capital campaign experience have expressed their confidence that we can secure the needed financial resources based on two critical factors: (1) women control 62% of financial wealth in the United States and (2) a national women's history museum will provide a relevant and transformative experience for all Americans, men as well as women. Our internal and external advisors conclude that securing a site will generate a rigorous capital campaign.

Legislatively, there is ever-growing, strong bi-partisan support by members of Congress. The latest legislative efforts include a House and Senate bill authorizing the study of the creation of a national women's history museum. Since legislative efforts began in 2004, there have been 10 bills introduced with co-sponsorship of 288 members of congress, 183 members of the House, and 105 members of the Senate. Two bills passed the full Senate, and one bill passed the House. NWHM enjoys the support of 51 national women's service organizations, representing 8 million members, and over the years, over 200 members of Congress have served as honorary board members.

2. There are a number of other museums and centers dedicated to women's history and contributions such as the National Museum of Women in the Arts and the U.S. Army Women's Museum. Do you have any recommendations for how a potential new national museum of women's history can prevent overlap with these entities and best leverage these resources?

Response: While there are museums that focus on specific aspects of women's history (i.e. women in art and women in the military), there is no major museum that covers the full breadth of women's history in the United States. The National Women's History Museum has relationships with the National Museum of Women in the Arts and the Women in the Military

⁹ Falk, John, and Lynn Dierking. *The Museum Experience Revisited*. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press, 2012.

¹⁰ Ibid.

Memorial and has partnered with both organizations on temporary exhibits. Of the 76 museums, memorials, statues, and commemoratives, in the Washington metropolitan area, three are dedicated to women. A vast majority of these 73 entities honor historic figures who distinguished themselves in idealism, inventions, innovations, art and culture. Many such facilities honor sacrifices which helped this country grow and prosper. The role of women in these endeavors is simply not presented. The contributions of women in science such as the development of COBOL, the basic computer operating code, were created by Admiral Grace Hopper. Actress Hedy Lamarr co-invented a frequency-hopping device that is the basis for our current WIFI and GPS. From inventing the washing machine to being a spy during the Civil War, there is a tremendous amount of women's history that has yet to be introduced to the American public, and as such, an overlap of exhibits is quite unlikely.

It would be of no benefit to NWHM to replicate existing exhibits or programs. Novel exhibits that capture one's imagination would be of greater interest. NWHM is dedicated to enhancing and complimenting, rather than duplicating, what is available to the public. NWHM would envision being a clearinghouse on women's history topics for programs and exhibitions similar to the role of Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibits, Affiliates, and Museum on Main Street.

3. How has your organization approached collections development? What lessons has your organization learned that could help a potential new museum develop a national collection representing the full spectrum of women's history and contributions?

Response:

NWHM does not have a curator and has not designed the museum content. Consequently, we have accepted very few artifacts. The Museum currently houses an exhibit consisting of seventy objects that serves as a "preview" of future exhibits.

NWHM is regularly contacted by individuals and organizations seeking a home for papers and artifacts on women's history. For the most part, these offers are declined but it is clear to us that there are few organizations that will accept women's history collections. Materials that could be interpreted from a women's history perspective are used in other exhibits.

As a national museum, there will be the opportunity to tell a national story while regional museums are only able to tell a local one. In addition, the NWHM website has a feature entitled "Chronicles of American Women" where members of the Museum can tell the story of their lives. These stories are proof that history is made by everyday women, not just the famous ones.

Some museums are created from an existing collection such as the National Museum of the American Indian. Other museums plan the story of the museum and obtain artifacts to tell that story. NWHM will fall in the second category like the African American Museum of History and Culture which had no artifacts for its exhibits when its legislation passed Congress seven years ago. After their site was selected and they began developing the museum program, the museum conducted an artifacts roadshow and as a result, has 30,000 objects in its collection. NWHM will develop a collections plan once Congress authorizes a permanent site.

Smithsonian's American History Museum as well as many organizations throughout the U.S. such as Business and Professional Women, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Red Cross

and The Alice Paul Institute own a multitude of objects related to women's history. In addition, there are numerous large and small private collections. Besides acquiring a permanent collection, NWHM could borrow objects for exhibits from other collections. In short, there are multiple ways NWHM can and will secure objects for exhibits.

4. In your opinion, why is it preferable to establish a separate women's history museum rather than push for highlighting and more fully integrating women's contributions and history into existing Smithsonian museums?

Response: Currently, there are some aspects of women's history represented in the Smithsonian museums, but it is spread out and does not highlight the many ways in which women contributed to building and shaping this nation. Space within the Smithsonian Museums is already limited -- women's history would have to compete with many other issues and as one curator has said, "when it comes to a fight for the dollars, women's history loses." Consequently, women's history becomes a sidebar to the main story of such museums. Clearly, a dedicated building is needed to ensure that women's history has a prominent place among the community of museums in Washington, DC.

We appreciate this opportunity to respond to questions and would be happy to provide any additional information. Please feel free to contact me at 703-461-1920 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Joan Wages
President & CEO